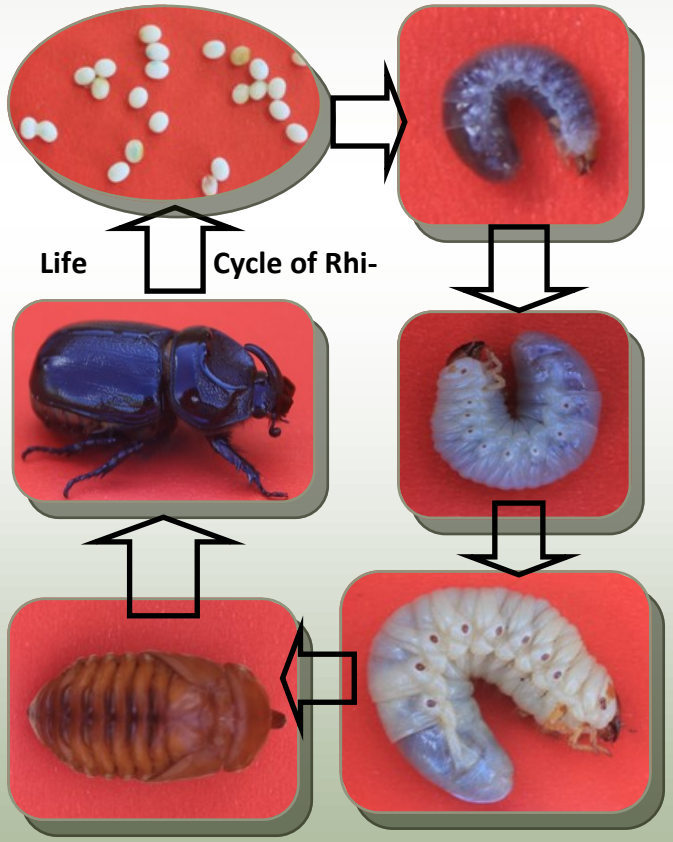
The pest

- Rhinoceros beetle is the most prevalent pest of the coconut palm
- The abundance of breeding areas allows rapid population increase
- Adults are the destructive stage

Nature of Damage

- Adult bores into the crown, penetrating 10-50 cm down to the pith (Giblin-Davis, 2001)
- Beetle bites and sucks the juice through the tight core of the pith
- It bores outwards emerging from the base of a central frond

- As the young leaves emerge, they bore the triangular cuts
- In young palms, the bud may be distorted or may loosen from the crown and eventually dies
- Tunnelling and feeding may hit the growing point and kill the palm
- Percent frond defoliation of 40% and higher can result to yield loss



noceros Beetle

Coir dusts, stumps, wood pile, animal manure, log pile, banana trunks, decomposing bio-mass

Management Strategies

Cultural Control

- Collect and utilize coconut debris like slabs, leaves, rachis, cabbage to avoid biomass piling
- Scatter thinly decomposed matter on the ground as fertilizer
- Plant covercrops if intercropping is not practiced
- Practice farm sanitation
- Regular inspection of all possible breeding sites and collection of all stages of the beetle

Biological Control using the Green Muscardine Fungus (GMF)

Establishment of coconut log traps inoculated with GMF granules

Biological Control Using *Oryctes* nudivirus

Chemical Control Using Pheromone

Rhinoceros beetle lure placed in traps enhanced with food bait

For more information, write or call:

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